

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 8, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

We write to strongly urge you to deny entry visas to the United States for Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and his delegation to attend the United Nations General Assembly's 77<sup>th</sup> session in New York this September.

The United States cannot overlook Ebrahim Raisi's direct involvement in gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, including the 1988 organized mass murder of thousands of political prisoners, among whom were women and children, by the Iranian regime.<sup>1</sup> A majority of those murdered were members or supporters of the People's Mojahedin of Iran (PMOI), also known as the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq (MEK). Members of other political dissident groups were murdered as well. Raisi was a documented member of the Tehran "death committee", the group responsible for overseeing the massacre. It is highly concerning that Raisi and other members of the so called "death committee" have not been investigated and charged with crimes against humanity. Furthermore, Raisi continues to publicly defend his role in the 1988 executions.<sup>2</sup>

It is unacceptable that the Iranian government continues to back state-sponsored terrorist activities around the globe, including campaigns to assassinate American officials. The Department of Justice recently announced charges against a member of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps for planning to assassinate former National Security Advisor John Bolton.<sup>3</sup> Additionally in 2019, the Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets

---

<sup>1</sup> Hanna, Andrew. "Raisi: Role in 1988 Massacre." *The Iran Primer*, United States Institute of Peace, 21 July 2021, [iranprimer.usip.org/blog/2021/jul/21/raisi-role-1988-massacre](https://iranprimer.usip.org/blog/2021/jul/21/raisi-role-1988-massacre).

<sup>2</sup> Nebehay, Stephanie. "EXCLUSIVE U.N. Expert Backs Probe into Iran's 1988 Killings, Raisi's Role." *Reuters*, 29 June 2021, [www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/exclusive-un-expert-backs-probe-into-irans-1988-killings-raisis-role-2021-06-29/](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/exclusive-un-expert-backs-probe-into-irans-1988-killings-raisis-role-2021-06-29/).

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Justice. "Member of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Charged with Plot to Murder the Former National Security Advisor." *U.S. Department of Justice*, 10 Aug. 2022,

Control (OFAC) sanctioned Ebrahim Raisi for his role in oppressing Iranian civilians and promoting terrorism abroad, pursuant to Executive Order 13876.<sup>4</sup>

Section 212 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) gives the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of State the legal authority to deny entry to any individual who “outside the United States, has committed, ordered, incited, assisted, or otherwise participated in the act of torture... or under color of law of any foreign nation, any extrajudicial killing, as defined in section 3(a) of the Torture Victim Protection Act of 1991.” Section 212 also provides the authority to deny “Any alien who... has been associated with a terrorist organization and intends while in the United States to engage solely, principally, or incidentally in activities that could endanger the welfare, safety, or security of the United States.” Furthermore, the President has the authority to deny entry of individuals whose entry into the United States is deemed “detrimental to the interests of the United States.”

There is also precedent to support a decision to deny an Iranian leader and his officials United States entry visas. In the last decade, two administrations have denied entry visas to Iranian regime officials, including Iran’s UN Ambassador Hamid Aboutalebi (2014) and its foreign minister Javad Zarif (2020).<sup>5</sup>

Given Ebrahim Raisi’s record of supporting terrorism and violating human rights, he should not be afforded the privilege to step onto American soil nor the privilege to address the United Nations General Assembly. We cannot turn a blind eye to perpetrators of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights and cruel regimes that endanger both their people and Americans. We urge you and your administration to carefully consider this matter of national security and to use your authorities under the INA to deny Ebrahim Raisi and his delegation entry into the United States.

Sincerely,

---

[www.justice.gov/opa/pr/member-irans-islamic-revolutionary-guard-corps-irgc-charged-plot-murder-former-national](https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/member-irans-islamic-revolutionary-guard-corps-irgc-charged-plot-murder-former-national).

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Department of the Treasury. "Treasury Designates Supreme Leader of Iran’s Inner Circle Responsible for Advancing Regime’s Domestic and Foreign Oppression." *U.S. Department of the Treasury*, 4 Nov. 2019, [home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm824](https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm824).

<sup>5</sup> Reuters staff. "U.S. Denies Iran's Zarif a Visa to Attend U.N.: U.S. Official." *Reuters*, 7 Jan. 2020, [www.reuters.com/article/us-iraq-security-un-zarif/u-s-denies-irans-zarif-a-visa-to-attend-u-n-u-s-official-idUSKBN1Z605T](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iraq-security-un-zarif/u-s-denies-irans-zarif-a-visa-to-attend-u-n-u-s-official-idUSKBN1Z605T); The White House. "Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jay Carney, 4/11/2014." *Whitehouse.gov*, 22 July 2015, [obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2014/04/11/daily-press-briefing-press-secretary-jay-carney-4112014](https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2014/04/11/daily-press-briefing-press-secretary-jay-carney-4112014);



---

Young Kim  
Member of Congress



---

Maria Elvira Salazar  
Member of Congress



---

Byron Donalds  
Member of Congress



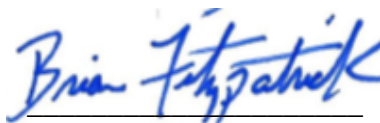
---

Carlos A. Gimenez  
Member of Congress



---

Claudia Tenney  
Member of Congress



---

Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



---

Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress



---

W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress



---

Ted Budd  
Member of Congress



---

Nancy Mace  
Member of Congress



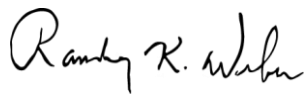
---

Robert E. Latta  
Member of Congress



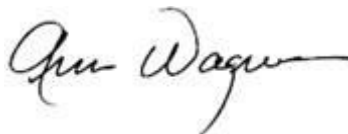
---

Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress



---

Randy Weber  
Member of Congress



---

Ann Wagner  
Member of Congress



---

Dan Crenshaw  
Member of Congress



---

Stephanie Bice  
Member of Congress



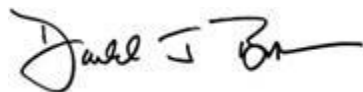
---

Tom McClintock  
Member of Congress



---

David G. Valadao  
Member of Congress



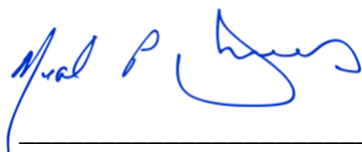
---

Donald J. Bacon  
Member of Congress



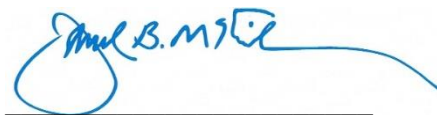
---

Ralph Norman  
Member of Congress



---

Neal P. Dunn, M.D.  
Member of Congress



---

David B. McKinley, P.E.  
Member of Congress



Debbie Lesko  
Member of Congress



Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress



Lisa McClain  
Member of Congress



Kat Cammack  
Member of Congress



Nicole Malliotakis  
Member of Congress



Darrell Issa  
Member of Congress



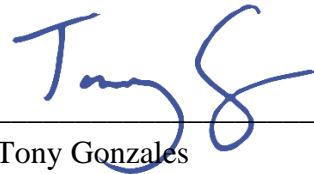
Andrew R. Garbarino  
Member of Congress



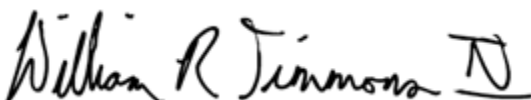
Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.  
Member of Congress



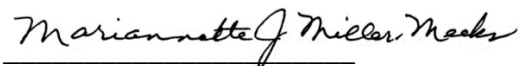
Guy Reschenthaler  
Member of Congress



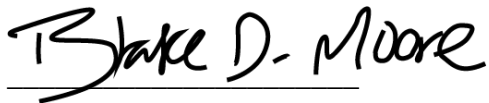
Tony Gonzales  
Member of Congress



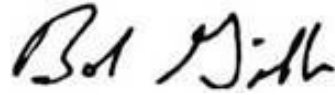
William R. Timmons, IV  
Member of Congress



Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Blake D. Moore  
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs  
Member of Congress



Michael R. Turner  
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress



A. Drew Ferguson IV  
Member of Congress



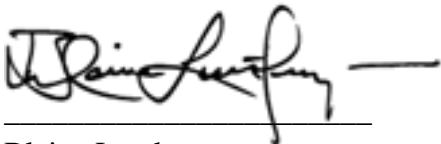
Chris Stewart  
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions  
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress



Blaine Luetkemeyer  
Member of Congress



Bob Good  
Member of Congress



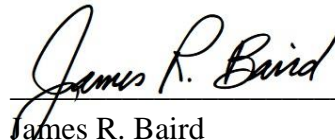
Troy Balderson  
Member of Congress



Scott Perry  
Member of Congress



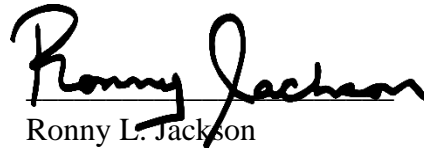
Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress



James R. Baird  
Member of Congress



Abigail Spanberger  
Member of Congress



Ronny L. Jackson  
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber  
Member of Congress



Tim Burchett  
Member of Congress

CC: Secretary of State Anthony Blinken; Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas;  
Attorney General Merrick Garland